

Peppo and Jane Biscarini serving in Italy

"...Letting things die so He may receive the credit..."

Lately the Lord boosted our confidence and gave us a fresh new look at the power of fasting and prayer via the securing of our new house. The previous one had problems with mold and humidity. Upon looking for a new location we stumbled across one that was out of our reach, but the agent encouraged us to see it anyway. Upon entering the house I had a strange feeling of "this is the one". When Jane saw it two days later she had the same impression. Thus a time of prayer and negotiation started since the owners (two brothers and a sister) and us were worlds apart. Through prayer and fasting we



A guardian at the door

we were able to arrive at a rental price that was 1/2 of the asking price and a meeting was set with the owners and an attorney (he represented the sister). During this meeting their fam-

ily issues got in the way and the attorney (a very unprofessional and arrogant one) also started to yell heading for the front door without having accomplished anything. We were able to calm the parties and went on with a draft of a contract.

During the following week once more the attorney proved to be a big hindrance since he did not finalize the docs as promised. We pushed to have him out of the picture since he was not aiding the situation in any way. The sister agreed to negotiate without him and the signing was set for 2 days later since in 3 days we were to leave town and move out upon our return. The morning of the signing the agent called to tell me **the deal was dead** because the attorney got back in the picture. Furthermore she gave him a piece of her mind and he hung up on her...I suggested she tries to reach the sister once more. Shortly thereafter Jane and I were

praying with 2 other couples and GEM's Southern Europe director who was visiting us. That evening at 8:00 the contract was signed! Our Lord is truly amazing; often in the miracle business... Two days after we moved into the house I noticed something very exciting: a portion of a bust that was dug up on the property during the original excavation was nestled in the wall just outside the front door. What stunned me was the positioning of the fingers of this statue; three open and 2 bent as to symbolize the number three. That is precisely what we saw a few months back in the catacombs, which are only 300 yds from the house. One of the early Christian martyrs had her throat cut open; bleeding to death and unable to speak she laid down and held her three fingers (as in the picture), to symbolize the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What a tremendous reminder that this is the Lord's house. This is not all. Remember the sister above? She is an atheist; however, she came to a women's luncheon we organized two weeks ago featuring two New York socialites now involved in ministry in Palm Beach. At the end of the meeting she said she wanted to start investigating with us the Bible and its claims!!! Those of you who receive our updates via e-mail (if you do not please send us a note with your electronic address) have heard about the first gathering we hosted at the house on Palm Sunday. We inaugurated the house with 20 guests from a director of RAI (the national TV), to 3 countesses, a "prefetto" and other very interesting guests. BY THE GRACE OF GOD the luncheon was a success with Jane preparing some wonderful dishes. I took time before dessert to reflect on the significance of Easter from a Christian perspective and cast the vision for more "meaningful gatherings" to explore the Word and the claims of Christ. As a result in a week we will have a smaller luncheon with what may well become the core group that will em-

brace the ministry and facilitate its propagation. Pray that they will understand fully what we are trying to do and not look at this as a potential social suicide.

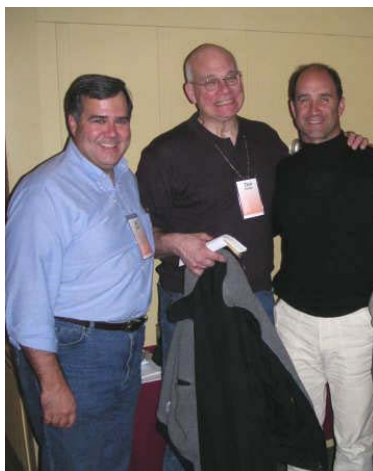
LATEST:



AT THE UN'S WFP

∞ Some missionary friends invited us to teach a Bible study at the United Nation's World Food Program here in Roma, thus for the past month I have had the pleasure of preparing some studies for this cross-cultural group. Not our Italian target group, but nonetheless thirsty souls in need of everlasting water....

∞ Though we have yet to find a church to call home (you are spoiled in the States!), we have had the opportunity of meeting regularly with two other missionary couples from the States. This past Sunday we had the very **first service at our home.**



NO,
I am not giving
him an Italian
pinch...!

**TIM KELLER IN
THE CENTER**

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∞ The second week of April I was in New York for a conference with Tim Keller and his church expansion team. We have been exploring the possibility of starting a church in Rome based on the successful urban model he has established in Manhattan. There is no conservative Bible centered Church in Rome that would appeal to our target group and Redeemer decided to help.

FAMILY CORNER:

My Italian class is still challenging...Isabella has surpassed me by now. I know a lot but I'm not quite fluent. Sure, if you come to visit us, you might think I speak Italian, but I go around the world to express one simple thought! Anyway, I must speak more

Italian at home with Peppo and the kids so that my communication with some of the ladies I am interacting with will be more clear and effective. Sometime I wish the Spirit would descend and control my mouth as it did in Acts 2. I am so proud of the kids as they are doing great with the language. Marco never really forgot Italian, in fact, now he has a Roman accent! Isabella went from 1st grade in an Italian school in Sept. to second grade in a British one with a double program (Italian and English) by the end of Feb...talking about changes.



ISABELLA & MARCO

Please do not stop **praying** for us. We are in the middle of a "desert" and your petitions to the Lord are like water on a parched tongue. Thank you.

We love and miss you! *Peppo and Jane*

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Rome April 8, 2005

A few hours back I was in St. Peter's square with my son Marco and took advantage of the occasion to give out some Christian literature to those who seemed troubled, somber, and contemplative. The atmosphere was one of anticipation, eagerness almost excitement prior to the function celebrated by cardinal Ratzinger. We were not witnessing a funeral, but rather celebrating a life. Giovanni Paolo II was a positive force to the youth and it showed by the thousand who attended the final event or waited for hours without end to see the last glance of the Papa papa' (the father Pope). A note that I saw taped under the obelisk stated "I am an Orthodox from the East and always followed my Patriarch, but once I moved to Rome I realized that a father is not the one that conceives you, but one that welcomes you and loves you just like you did." I confess I have not been following much of the Pope's life, though I grew up Catholic. However, I have to recognize now the impact this man has made in the lives of many. He made a humble entrance to "office" and conquered people by stating to the Roman crowd: "If I will make some mistakes please correct me." He also inspired many Not to fear, something we too should never forget..."How big is your God? ", as a dear friend used to say. Brother and sisters in the Lord love breaks down ANY barrier; oh, if we could only master it and practice it more often! I too left part of my heart in the square not with John Paul II, but with a stranger that was burdened and sadden by the loss. I just hugged him and we cried together.

With love, Your servant in Christ.

PS Attached are a few moments I was able to capture on film.

